

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to educator certification; amending s.
 3 1004.04, F.S.; providing requirements for certain
 4 instructional personnel who supervise or direct
 5 preservice field experience; amending s. 1012.56,
 6 F.S.; deleting obsolete provision and establishing a
 7 new provision relating to acceptable means of
 8 demonstrating mastery of general knowledge; revising
 9 acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of subject
 10 area knowledge and professional preparation and
 11 education competence; revising components of a
 12 competency-based professional development
 13 certification program; repealing s. 1012.56(17), F.S.,
 14 relating to a certification comparison study; amending
 15 s. 1012.585, F.S.; revising certain requirements for
 16 the renewal or reinstatement of a professional
 17 certificate; providing an effective date.

18
 19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

20
 21 Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 1004.04, Florida
 22 Statutes, is amended to read:

23 1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for
 24 teacher preparation programs.—

25 (5) PRESERVICE FIELD EXPERIENCE.—All postsecondary
 26 instructors, school district personnel and instructional

27 personnel, and school sites preparing instructional personnel
 28 through preservice field experience courses and internships
 29 shall meet special requirements. District school boards may pay
 30 student teachers during their internships.

31 (a) All individuals in postsecondary teacher preparation
 32 programs who instruct or supervise preservice field experience
 33 courses or internships ~~in which a candidate demonstrates his or~~
 34 ~~her impact on student learning growth~~ shall have the following:
 35 specialized training in clinical supervision; at least ~~3~~ three
 36 years of successful, relevant prekindergarten through grade 12
 37 teaching, student services, or school administration experience;
 38 and an annual demonstration of experience in a relevant
 39 prekindergarten through grade 12 school setting as defined by
 40 State Board of Education rule.

41 (b) 1. All school district personnel and instructional
 42 personnel who supervise or direct teacher preparation students
 43 during field experience courses or internships taking place in
 44 Florida ~~in which candidates demonstrate an impact on student~~
 45 ~~learning growth~~ must have evidence of "clinical educator"
 46 training, a valid professional certificate issued pursuant to s.
 47 1012.56, and at least ~~3~~ three years of teaching experience in
 48 prekindergarten through grade 12 and must have earned an
 49 effective or highly effective rating on the prior year's
 50 performance evaluation under s. 1012.34 or be a peer evaluator
 51 under the district's evaluation system approved under s.
 52 1012.34. The State Board of Education shall approve the training

53 requirements.

54 2. All instructional personnel who supervise or direct
 55 teacher preparation students during field experience courses or
 56 internships in another state through a Florida online or
 57 distance program must have received "clinical educator" training
 58 or its equivalent in that state, hold a valid professional
 59 certificate issued by the state in which the field experience is
 60 taking place, and have at least three years of teaching
 61 experience in prekindergarten through grade 12.

62 Section 2. Subsections (3), (5), and (6), and paragraph
 63 (a) of subsection (8) of section 1012.56, Florida Statutes, are
 64 amended to read:

65 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

66 (3) MASTERY OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE.—Acceptable means of
 67 demonstrating mastery of general knowledge are:

68 (a) Achievement of passing scores on the general knowledge
 69 ~~basic skills~~ examination required by state board rule;

70 ~~(b) Achievement of passing scores on the College Level~~
 71 ~~Academic Skills Test earned prior to July 1, 2002;~~

72 ~~(b)(e)~~ Documentation of a valid professional standard
 73 teaching certificate issued by another state;

74 ~~(c)(d)~~ Documentation of a valid certificate issued by the
 75 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards or a national
 76 educator credentialing board approved by the State Board of
 77 Education; ~~or~~

78 ~~(d)(e)~~ Documentation of two semesters of successful, full-

79 time teaching in a Florida College System institution, state
 80 university, or private college or university that awards an
 81 associate or higher degree and is an accredited institution or
 82 an institution of higher education identified by the Department
 83 of Education as having a quality program; or

84 (e) Effective July 1, 2015, achievement of passing scores,
 85 as identified in state board rule, on national or international
 86 examinations that test comparable content and relevant standards
 87 in the verbal, analytical writing, and quantitative reasoning
 88 skills, including but not limited to the verbal, analytical
 89 writing, and quantitative reasoning portions of the Graduate
 90 Record Examination. Passing scores identified in state board
 91 rule must be at approximately the same level of rigor as is
 92 required to pass the general knowledge examinations.

93 (5) MASTERY OF SUBJECT AREA KNOWLEDGE.—Acceptable means of
 94 demonstrating mastery of subject area knowledge are:

95 (a) For a subject requiring only a bachelor's degree for
 96 which a Florida-developed subject area examination has been
 97 developed, achievement of a passing score ~~scores~~ on the Florida-
 98 developed subject area examination, as specified in ~~examinations~~
 99 ~~required by state board rule, which may include, but need not be~~
 100 ~~limited to, world languages in Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, French,~~
 101 ~~German, Greek, Haitian Creole, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese,~~
 102 ~~Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish;~~

103 (b) For a subject for which a Florida subject area
 104 examination has not been developed, achievement of a passing

105 score on a standardized examination as specified in state board
 106 rule, including, but not limited to, passing scores on both the
 107 oral proficiency and written proficiency examinations ~~Completion~~
 108 ~~of a bachelor's degree or higher and verification of the~~
 109 ~~attainment of an oral proficiency interview score above the~~
 110 ~~intermediate level and a written proficiency score above the~~
 111 ~~intermediate level on a test administered by the American~~
 112 ~~Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages for which there is~~
 113 ~~no Florida-developed examination;~~

114 (c) For a subject for which a Florida subject area
 115 examination has not been developed or a standardized examination
 116 has not been specified in state board rule, completion of the
 117 subject area specialization requirements specified in state
 118 board rule and verification of the attainment of the essential
 119 subject matter competencies by the district school
 120 superintendent of the employing school district or chief
 121 administrative officer of the employing state-supported or
 122 private school ~~for a subject area for which a subject area~~
 123 ~~examination has not been developed and required by state board~~
 124 ~~rule;~~

125 (d) For a subject requiring a master's or higher degree,
 126 completion of the subject area specialization requirements
 127 specified in state board rule ~~for a subject coverage requiring a~~
 128 ~~master's or higher degree~~ and achievement of a passing score on
 129 the Florida-developed subject area examination or a standardized
 130 examination as specified in state board rule;

131 (e) Documentation of a valid professional standard
 132 teaching certificate issued by another state; or
 133 (f) Documentation of a valid certificate issued by the
 134 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards or a national
 135 educator credentialing board approved by the State Board of
 136 Education.
 137
 138 School districts are encouraged to provide mechanisms for ~~these~~
 139 middle grades ~~school~~ teachers holding only a K-6 teaching
 140 certificate to obtain a subject area coverage for middle grades
 141 through postsecondary coursework or district add-on
 142 certification.
 143 (6) MASTERY OF PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND EDUCATION
 144 COMPETENCE.—Acceptable means of demonstrating mastery of
 145 professional preparation and education competence are:
 146 (a) Successful completion of an approved teacher
 147 preparation program at a postsecondary educational institution
 148 within this state and achievement of a passing score on the
 149 professional education competency examination required by state
 150 board rule;
 151 (b) Successful completion of a teacher preparation program
 152 at a postsecondary educational institution outside Florida and
 153 achievement of a passing score on the professional education
 154 competency examination required by state board rule;
 155 (c) Documentation of a valid professional standard
 156 teaching certificate issued by another state;

157 (d) Documentation of a valid certificate issued by the
 158 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards or a national
 159 educator credentialing board approved by the State Board of
 160 Education;

161 (e) Documentation of two semesters of successful, full-
 162 time teaching in a Florida College System institution, state
 163 university, or private college or university that awards an
 164 associate or higher degree and is an accredited institution or
 165 an institution of higher education identified by the Department
 166 of Education as having a quality program and achievement of a
 167 passing score on the professional education competency
 168 examination required by state board rule;

169 (f) Successful completion of professional preparation
 170 courses as specified in state board rule, successful completion
 171 of a professional preparation and education competence
 172 ~~demonstration~~ program pursuant to paragraph (8) (b), and
 173 achievement of a passing score on the professional education
 174 competency examination required by state board rule;

175 (g) Successful completion of a professional development
 176 ~~preparation-alternative~~ certification and education competency
 177 program, outlined in paragraph (8) (a); or

178 (h) Successful completion of a competency-based ~~an~~
 179 ~~alternative~~ certification program pursuant to s. 1004.85 and
 180 achievement of a passing score on the professional education
 181 competency examination required by rule of the State Board of
 182 Education.

183 (8) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATION AND EDUCATION
 184 COMPETENCY PROGRAM.—

185 (a) The Department of Education shall develop and each
 186 school district may provide a cohesive competency-based
 187 professional development certification and education competency
 188 program by which members of a school district's instructional
 189 staff may satisfy the mastery of professional preparation and
 190 education competence requirements specified in ~~this~~ subsection
 191 (6) and rules of the State Board of Education. Participants must
 192 hold a state-issued temporary certificate. A school district
 193 that implements the program shall provide a competency-based
 194 certification program developed by the Department of Education
 195 or developed by the district and approved by the Department of
 196 Education. The program shall include the following ~~components~~:

197 1. A minimum period of initial preparation before assuming
 198 duties as the teacher of record.

199 2. An option for collaboration between school districts
 200 and other supporting agencies or educational entities for
 201 implementation.

202 3. An experienced peer mentor component ~~mentors~~. Each
 203 individual selected by the district as a peer mentor must hold a
 204 valid professional certificate issued pursuant to this section,
 205 must have earned at least 3 years of teaching experience in
 206 prekindergarten through grade 12, and must have earned an
 207 effective or highly effective rating on the prior year's
 208 performance evaluation under s. 1012.34 or be a peer evaluator

209 | under the district's evaluation system approved under s.
 210 | 1012.34.

211 | 4. An assessment of teaching performance aligned to the
 212 | district's system for personnel evaluation under s. 1012.34
 213 | which provides for:

214 | a. An initial evaluation of each educator's competencies
 215 | to determine an appropriate individualized professional
 216 | development plan.

217 | b. A summative evaluation to assure successful completion
 218 | of the program.

219 | 5. Professional education preparation content knowledge
 220 | that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

221 | a. The state ~~state-adopted student content~~ standards as
 222 | provided under s. 1003.41, including content literacy and
 223 | mathematical practices, for each subject identified on the
 224 | temporary certificate.

225 | b. The educator-accomplished practices approved by the
 226 | state board.

227 | c. A variety of data indicators for monitoring student
 228 | progress.

229 | d. Methodologies for teaching students with disabilities.

230 | e. Methodologies for teaching students of limited English
 231 | proficiency ~~English language learners~~ appropriate for each
 232 | subject area identified on the temporary certificate.

233 | f. Techniques and strategies for operationalizing the role
 234 | of the teacher in assuring a safe learning environment for

235 students.

236 6. Required achievement of passing scores on the subject
 237 area and professional education competency examination required
 238 by State Board of Education rule. Mastery of general knowledge
 239 must be demonstrated as described in subsection (3).

240 (b)1. Each school district must and a state supported
 241 public school or a private school may develop and maintain a
 242 system by which members of the instructional staff may
 243 demonstrate mastery of professional preparation and education
 244 competence as required by law. Each program must be based on
 245 classroom application of the Florida Educator Accomplished
 246 Practices and instructional performance and, for public schools,
 247 must be aligned with the district's evaluation system approved
 248 under s. 1012.34.

249 2. The Commissioner of Education shall determine the
 250 continued approval of programs implemented under this paragraph,
 251 based upon the department's review of performance data. The
 252 department shall review the performance data as a part of the
 253 periodic review of each school district's professional
 254 development system required under s. 1012.98.

255 (c) The Commissioner of Education shall determine the
 256 continued approval of programs implemented under paragraph (a)
 257 based upon the department's periodic review of the following:

258 1. Evidence that the requirements in paragraph (a) are
 259 consistently met; and

260 2. Evidence of performance in each of the following areas:

261 a. Rate of retention for employed program completers in
 262 instructional positions in Florida public schools.

263 b. Performance of students in prekindergarten through
 264 grade 12 who are assigned to in-field program completers on
 265 statewide assessments using the results of the student learning
 266 growth formula adopted under s. 1012.34.

267 c. Performance of students in prekindergarten through
 268 grade 12 who are assigned to in-field program completers
 269 aggregated by student subgroups, as defined in the federal
 270 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), 20 U.S.C. s.
 271 6311(b)(2)(C)(v)(II), as a measure of how well the program
 272 prepares teachers to work with a variety of students in Florida
 273 public schools.

274 d. Results of program completers' annual evaluations in
 275 accordance with the timeline as set forth in s. 1012.34.

276 e. Production of program completers in statewide critical
 277 teacher shortage areas as defined in s. 1012.07.

278 Section 3. Subsection (17) of section 1012.56, Florida
 279 Statutes, is repealed.

280 Section 4. Subsections (3) and (5) of section 1012.585,
 281 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

282 1012.585 Process for renewal of professional
 283 certificates.—

284 (3) For the renewal of a professional certificate, the
 285 following requirements must be met:

286 (a) The applicant must earn a minimum of 6 college credits

287 or 120 inservice points or a combination thereof. For each area
288 of specialization to be retained on a certificate, the applicant
289 must earn at least 3 of the required credit hours or equivalent
290 inservice points in the specialization area. Education in
291 "clinical educator" training pursuant to s. 1004.04(5)(b) and
292 credits or points that provide training in the area of
293 scientifically researched, knowledge-based reading literacy and
294 computational skills acquisition, exceptional student education,
295 normal child development, and the disorders of development may
296 be applied toward any specialization area. Credits or points
297 that provide training in the areas of drug abuse, child abuse
298 and neglect, strategies in teaching students having limited
299 proficiency in English, or dropout prevention, or training in
300 areas identified in the educational goals and performance
301 standards adopted pursuant to ss. 1000.03(5) and 1008.345 may be
302 applied toward any specialization area. Credits or points earned
303 through approved summer institutes may be applied toward the
304 fulfillment of these requirements. Inservice points may also be
305 earned by participation in professional growth components
306 approved by the State Board of Education and specified pursuant
307 to s. 1012.98 in the district's approved master plan for
308 inservice educational training, including, but not limited to,
309 serving as a trainer in an approved teacher training activity,
310 serving on an instructional materials committee or a state board
311 or commission that deals with educational issues, or serving on
312 an advisory council created pursuant to s. 1001.452.

313 (b) In lieu of college course credit or inservice points,
 314 the applicant may renew a subject area specialization ~~area~~ by
 315 passage of a state board approved Florida-developed subject area
 316 examination or, if a Florida subject area examination has not
 317 been developed, a standardized examination as specified in state
 318 board rule ~~test~~.

319 (c) If an applicant wishes to retain more than two
 320 specialization areas on the certificate, the applicant shall be
 321 permitted two successive validity periods for renewal of all
 322 specialization areas, but must earn no fewer than 6 college
 323 course credit hours or the equivalent in any one validity
 324 period.

325 (d) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for the
 326 expanded use of training for renewal of the professional
 327 certificate for educators who are required to complete training
 328 in teaching students of limited English proficiency or students
 329 with disabilities and training in the teaching of reading as
 330 follows:

331 1. A teacher who holds a professional certificate may use
 332 college credits or inservice points earned through training in
 333 teaching students of limited English proficiency or students
 334 with disabilities ~~completed in English for Speakers of Other~~
 335 ~~Languages training~~ and training in the teaching of reading in
 336 excess of 6 semester hours during one certificate-validity
 337 period toward renewal of the professional certificate during the
 338 subsequent validity periods.

339 2. A teacher who holds a temporary certificate may use
 340 college credits or inservice points earned through training in
 341 teaching students of limited English proficiency or students
 342 with disabilities ~~completed in English for Speakers of Other~~
 343 ~~Languages training~~ and training in the teaching of reading
 344 toward renewal of the teacher's first professional certificate.
 345 Such training must not have been included within the degree
 346 program, and the teacher's temporary and professional
 347 certificates must be issued for consecutive school years.

348 (e) Beginning July 1, 2014, an applicant for renewal of a
 349 professional certificate must earn a minimum of one college
 350 credit or the equivalent inservice points in the area of
 351 instruction for teaching students with disabilities. The
 352 requirement in this paragraph may not add to the total hours
 353 required by the department for continuing education or inservice
 354 training.

355 (5) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
 356 allow the reinstatement of expired professional certificates.
 357 The department may reinstate an expired professional certificate
 358 if the certificateholder:

359 (a) Submits an application for reinstatement of the
 360 expired certificate.

361 (b) Documents completion of 6 college credits during the 5
 362 years immediately preceding reinstatement of the expired
 363 certificate, completion of 120 inservice points, or a
 364 combination thereof, in an area specified in paragraph (3) (a) to

365 include the credit required under paragraph (3) (e).

366 (c) During the 5 years immediately preceding reinstatement
367 of the certificate, achieves a passing score on the Florida-
368 developed subject area examination or, if a Florida subject area
369 examination has not been developed, a standardized examination
370 as specified in state board rule ~~test~~ for each subject to be
371 shown on the reinstated certificate.

372

373 The requirements of this subsection may not be satisfied by
374 subject area examinations ~~tests~~ or college credits completed for
375 issuance of the certificate that has expired.

376 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.